

Chess Fantasies



Chess

Fantasies

Introduction

What kind of amazing and obsessive game is chess? The earliest form of chess was first developed in India at least 1,500 years ago. It is a strategic game of logic and reasoning but it can also be adventurous, It is a creative game of skill and strategy that requires great concentration in order to play well. Played well, it has an aesthetic beauty that can be enjoyed by those who understand the game.

Chess has many benefits but it has many dangers as well. Chess, like other games, teaches sportsmanship. To play it well, planning, patience, and mental concentration are necessary. And, it teaches that it is wise to consolidate one's position before getting into complications.

On the dark side, chess can become an obsessive addiction. Many chess players have devoted so much time to the game that they neglect their family and work responsibilities. It is very easy to develop an unhealthy attachment because of the thrill of outsmarting an opponent or the lure of finding the perfect move.

Only a few players are able to achieve the highest levels of chess mastery. Many of their games provide an aesthetic beauty that strong chess

players can appreciate but few can emulate. Their games have a certain aesthetic beauty because of the genius of their strategy, their beautiful moves or combinations, their piece sacrifices and near flawless play throughout the game. However, for all of their chess genius, humans can not come near to playing as well as artificial intelligence software. The chess world champion is not as strong a chess player as the strongest chess engine software. But, this software is useful to human players to help in the analysis of games and particular openings and end games.

About The Photographs

I first learned the game of chess as a young child and have enjoyed playing it ever since. It has always held a certain fascination for me but I have had to be careful not to spend so much time playing chess that it might interfere with life itself. Paul Morphy, who was once acknowledged as the world's greatest chess player once said: "The ability to play chess is the sign of a gentlemen. The ability to play chess well is the sign of a wasted life." - Paul Morphy

These photographs are chess fantasies derived from some of my thoughts and speculations about chess.

For example, the photographs of chess aliens playing in a chess tournament came from the idea that the game of chess is played at all levels of competition on our planet. Perhaps, it is possible for such competition to exist between different aliens from other planets as well. Other photographs, speculate on the fantasy of chess being played in the spiritual realm or that good and evil could settle differences by means of a chess game between the Devil and God. Perhaps, the spiritual realm plays chess as well. Some quantum physicists speculate that perhaps we don't have free will and the spiritual realm really controls us like we are chess pieces.

Some of the photographs are meant to be fantasies about obsessions others are a play on fantasy and imagination.

The photographs of men playing chess with burlap over their heads are a fantasy take off on the fact that some chess grand masters have played blindfolded against several opponents at once (but never against one another).

It is my hope that you will look at my photographs as fantasies on the subject of chess and enjoy them as visual communication as well.

































































































































